

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 05946 011542Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /046 W
-----012245 092915 /66

R 011533Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0129
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0374
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05946

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB, FR
SUBJECT: CONTACTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: A. PARIS 04990; B. DEPT.'S A-594; C. EC
BRUSSELS 01662; D. ROME 3076

1. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO PARIS AFTER SEVERAL DAYS
ON THE ROAD, FO INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR ANTOINE
LAVAL PROVIDED HIS ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION ON
CONTACTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNIST
COUNTRIES.

2. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, LAVAL VOLUNTEERED INFORMA-
TION THAT ICFTU (NOT FURTHER SPECIFIED) HAS GROWN
INCREASINGLY MORE CONVINCED THAT ITS AFFILIATES'
BILATERAL CONTACTS WERE DOING NOTHING EITHER TO
ADVANCE LEGITIMATE TRADE UNIONISM OR MODIFY BEHAVIOR
OF COMMUNIST GROUPS; BUT WERE GIVING THOSE GROUPS
BOTH A FORUM IN WHICH TO CARRY ON THEIR POLITICAL
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ACTIVITIES, AND AN AURA OF UNDESERVED LEGITIMACY. HE
FURTHER VOLUNTEERED THAT THIS MOUNTING CONCERN OVER
THESE TRENDS HAD LED TO AN ICFTU POLICY STATEMENT ON
SUCH CONTACTS. HE THEN BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED THE ICFTU
POSITION AS ALREADY REPORTED REF. B.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE FO'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND

THE UPCOMING GENEVA MEETING ON WORK ENVIRONMENT (SEE REF. A.), LAVAL COMMENTED WITH HUMOR, THAT THERE WAS A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THAT MEETING MET THE ICFTU'S CRITERIA. IT WAS, HE SAID, A MATTER OF "INTERPRETATION" AS TO WHETHER IT WAS BEING HELD UNDER ILO AUSPICES, OR MERELY THROUGH THAT ORGANIZATION'S GOOD OFFICES.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, LAVAL SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT ANY MORE NATIONAL CENTERS WOULD JOIN IN BOYCOTTING THE GENEVA MEETING (IT WAS "TOO LATE"), HE DID FEEL THAT THE FO'S STAND HAD FOUND ECHOES ELSEWHERE, AND MENTIONED BRITAIN AND DENMARK. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT EXPAND ON WHAT ENCOURAGEMENT HE FOUND IN BRITAIN, HE DID DISCUSS, AT LENGTH, THE STRONG VIEWS THAT DANISH LO PRESIDENT NIELSEN HELD ON THE SUBJECT OF CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST GROUPS. LAVAL THEN OBSERVED THAT HE FELT THAT AT LONG LAST, THE TIDE WAS BEGINNING TO TURN IN THE FAVOR OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED TREATING THE COMMUNIST GROUPS AS COLLEAGUES; AND THAT HE WAS GROWING OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST OFFICIALS, LABOR UNIONS, DEBRIEFINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS05946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770070-0978
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703105/aaaadovg.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60fd27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SIL
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 4990, 77 STATE A-594
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2950485
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTACTS WITH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES
TAGS: ELAB, FR, (LAVAL, ANTOINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60fd27ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009